

**September 12, 2017
Regular Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor
Janice B. Denton, Councilor (arrived at 7:00 pm)
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor (arrived at 6:33 pm)

Charles Dane, Interim City Manager
Stefan M. Calos, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT: Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	absent
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

CLOSED MEETING

Motion was made at 6:33 p.m. by Vice Mayor Gore, and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to go into Closed Meeting for (1) discussion of appointment and performance of specific appointees of city council (interim city manager, CPMT); (2) discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for employment (city manager, city attorney); (3) discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body (cemetery); (4) discussion concerning the expansion of an existing business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in expanding its facilities; (5) briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation (CSA program), where such briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of City Council; (6) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (two items), (3), (5), (7) and (8), respectively. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

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RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Council convened into Open Session at 7:39 p.m. and responded to the question pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (D): were only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting? Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Shornak called the regular meeting to order, at 7:39 p.m. and thanked all for attending. There was then prayer by Captain Taylor of the Hopewell Police Department, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Zevgolis.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Shornak advised that the Interim City Manager was requesting an amendment to the agenda to add **R-6 Cemetery Expansion** and **R-7 Economic Development Grant**. Motion was made by Councilor Denton, and seconded by Councilor Zevgolis to amend the agenda accordingly, and to adopt the amended agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	No
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

Under the Consent Agenda, Vice Mayor Gore clarified that the 2015 CAFR work session would be held September 26, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Aaron Reidmiller recognized the 9-10 baseball team for their winning season. Shanelle Ebanks made a presentation on the status of the Office on Youth, including its financial status. After the presentation, Vice Mayor Gore asked Ebanks for what the funds were used, to which Ebanks replied they were used to prepare for the State. Councilor Pelham advised Ebanks to meet with Paula Brumfield and Joan Gossier as they would make excellent resources for her. Mayor Shornak asked Ebanks about the expansion of office space, and did Council budget for that. Interim City Manager Dane responded that the extra space was for volunteers and interns. The Mayor stated that the Office on Youth had done a good job. Councilor Gore asked Ebanks if she had conducted any surveys, which Ebanks said was in the works. Gore said John Randolph had an excellent survey. Ebanks said the biggest thing she is working on now is communications. Gore asked about the status of Ebanks' work with the Virginia Pro Elite. Ebanks said they had contacted her, but only to inquire about a space to use for their

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projects. Dane said they had contacted Va Pro Elite several times, to no avail. Gore reminded Ebanks that working with Va Pro Elite was one of the things she had been tasked with, and requested that she try to schedule a meeting with them. Gore also advised Ebanks that the NLC has an annual event for the youth, and advised Ebanks to find out more about that. Shornak said she didn't see anything that Va Pro Elite had done, and asked if the City should issue an RFP to find some other group. Dane responded that they preferred to work with Va Pro Elite because they bring their own funding.

Cherry Bekaert then presented the 2015 CAFR. Pelham asked how much had been spent on the audit, including to Minor & Associates. Dane said Minor & Associates had helped the Treasurer's Office with the books, and had assisted Jeanie Grandstaff with reviewing records to identify anomalies. Pelham again requested the total cost. Dane suggested that Council create a Budget Audit committee for the next CAFR.

A motion was made by Councilor Denton, and seconded by Councilor Holloway to approve the consent agenda: 2015 CAFR work session; Routine Grant Approval for the Keep Virginia Beautiful beautification grant to Keep Hopewell Beautiful; Minutes from HRHA (May 8 and May 23) and the School Board (July 6 and July 13, 2017); the National Suicide Prevention Month proclamation, as well as the presentations detailed above. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:

There were no communications from citizens.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

R-1 (A) Review and approve ordinance revising Chapter 22, Article VI, Sec. 22-110 of the City Code
Stefan Calos advised Council that the purpose of this ordinance was to remove the duplicate reference to parking in a fire lane or near a fire hydrant as it is covered by another code section. Councilor Denton moved to approve the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

R-1(B) Ordinance revising Chapter 15, Article III, Sec. 15-49 of the City Code – Heather Marks,
Fire Marshal, Dane, Donald Hunter, Fire Chief, and Calos all presented the revised ordinance revising

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Chapter 15, Article III, Sec. 15-49 of the City Code so that parking in a fire lane or in front of a fire hydrant is now a class 1 misdemeanor, or is punishable by a \$200 fine. Councilor Pelham moved that this item be denied. Her motion was not seconded, and thus failed.

Pelham said that she did not believe in making criminals out of young people. She said it was a bad decision to park in a fire lane, but it should not be criminal. Marks stated that there had been two incidents, one at a school where a child was having an allergic reaction, where the emergency vehicle could not get to the fire lane because someone was parked in it. Councilor Denton said if you ignore the law you should be penalized and agreed with the proposed revision. Mayor Shornak said one life is worth the change. She said one life saved from an allergic reaction is worth it. She said she wondered why the Commonwealth Attorney, Rick Newman, did not attend the meeting. Fire Chief Donald Hunter remarked that he wants the revision because he wants “teeth” in the law, and he wants to follow State law.

Councilor Pelham made a motion to revise the ordinance to state that Marks would always issue the citation first, and not the summons. This motion failed for lack of a second. Councilor Pelham asked if the ordinance could be revised so that a summons would only be issued if life or limb were threatened. Calos said that he would work with Marks on re-wording the ordinance for clarification. Councilor Zevgolis said he was in favor of postponing this item. Vice Mayor Gore said she was not in favor of postponing and asked if the ordinance could be revised now. She made a motion to change the verbiage of the ordinance. Calos said it would be better if he had time to go over the change with Marks. Gore withdrew her motion. Councilor Pelham made a motion to postpone this item to another meeting. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

R-2 New voting equipment – Dane advised Council of the letter received from the Commissioner of Elections advising that the City’s current voting equipment would soon be decertified, which means the City must have new equipment prior to the November election. Councilor Zevgolis made a motion, which was seconded by Councilor Pelham, to approve the purchase of, and appropriation of \$180,000 for the new voting equipment. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

R-3 Approval of Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement – Dane brought before Council the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement among Hopewell, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Petersburg, Prince George, Sussex and Surry. The agreement, which mutually benefits all of the cities involved, has also been reviewed and approved by counsel for all of the cities. Councilor Zevgolis moved to approve the Law Enforcement Aid Agreement, and to allow Dane or his designee to sign the Agreement

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on behalf of the City of Hopewell. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

R-4 Request to demolish city-owned property – Dane spoke to Council regarding the property located at 603 N. 21st Avenue, including the fact that Council approved the purchase of the property to expand the Cemetery, and that to expand the cemetery it was necessary to tear down the building. Motion was made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Vice Mayor Gore to approve the demolition of the building. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	No

R-5 Request for approval of creation of an accounting position for Hopewell H₂O Renewal – Dane, with input from Jeannie Grandstaff, Director of the Hopewell Water Renewal plant, advised Council that the 2015 CAFR showed how Hopewell Water Renewal needs qualified staff to do the audit budget work. He advised that this was not creating a new position since this position was already in the Comp Plan. Vice Mayor Gore asked if the proposed new position would report to the Business Manager, to which Grandstaff replied in the affirmative. Gore sought a more detailed explanation and Grandstaff advised that, due to the myriad duties of the Business Manager, it was best that the new position answer to that position. Councilor Zevgolis asked if the position had been approved by the Commission. Grandstaff responded that they could not go to the Commission until Council approved the position, because until then, as far as the Commission was concerned, the position did not exist. There was a bit of confusion on that point, which Dane and Grandstaff cleared up. With there being no further discussion, upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes (Councilor Pelham actually abstained, which per Council Rules is voted as a “yes.”)

R-6 Cemetery Expansion – Motion was made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Councilor Zevgolis to approve the use of \$115,000 of existing Cemetery Capital Appropriations to purchase 601 N. 21st Avenue for use in the expansion of the Appomattox Cemetery. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
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Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	No

R-7 Economic Development Grant – Mr. Dane brought forward discussion of the proposed \$25,000 economic development grant for Guncotton Coffee. Motion was made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Mayor Shornak to approve a \$25,000 economic development grant for 238 East Broadway (Guncotton Coffee) and to approve the sale of the previously-donated vacant parcel located at 250 East Broadway to Guncotton Coffee for the price of \$25,000. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	No

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement.

Reports of City Attorney – there was nothing to report.

Reports of City Clerk – there was nothing to report

Reports of City Council – Individual Councilors – Mayor Shornak recommended moving IC-1 to an October meeting and for discussion during the retreat. She asked Council if that was acceptable, to which all replied, “aye.” There were no “nays”.

ADJOURN

At 10:31 p.m., motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis and seconded by Councilor Denton to adjourn. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	Yes
Councilor Holloway	-	Yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	Yes
Councilor Denton	-	Yes
Councilor Pelham	-	Yes

/s/ Jackie M. Shornak
Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor

/s/ Ronnieye L. Arrington
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

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